

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the text in section entitled the Cross-Reference to Related Applications with the following amended version:

--This application is a continuation-in-part of ~~pending~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/571,349, ~~"Through timing of Data Transmitted across an Optical Communications System Utilizing frequency Division Multiplexing,"~~ by David Pechner and Laurence J. Newell, filed May 16, 2000 now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of ~~pending~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/405,367, ~~"Optical Communications Networks Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing,"~~ by Michael W. Rowan, et al., filed Sept. 24, 1999 6,529,303; which is a continuation-in-part of ~~pending~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/372,143, now abandoned ~~"Optical Communications Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing and Wavelength Division Multiplexing,"~~ by Peter H. Chang, et al., filed August 20, 1999; which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/229,594, ~~"Electrical Add Drop Multiplexing for Optical Communications Networks Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing,"~~ by David B. Upham, et al., filed January 13, 1999 6,452,594; which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/035,630, ~~"System and Method for Spectrally Efficient Transmission of Digital Data over Optical Fiber,"~~ by Michael W. Rowan, et al., filed March 5, 1998 now abandoned. The subject matter of all of the foregoing is incorporated herein by reference.--